

WISHING DR. DAVID STRAND OF ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY A HAPPY RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EWING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a very good friend of mine, Dr. David Strand, to recognize his pending retirement as president of Illinois State University in Bloomington, Illinois. I would be remiss not to come here today to honor Dr. Strand, for throughout his long and distinguished tenure, spanning from 1978 until 1999 at the university at Normal, Illinois, Illinois State University, Dr. Strand has helped shape the lives of thousands of young men and women. Over the years graduates of Illinois State University have traveled far beyond the borders of Illinois and have spread out around the country to become some of the best and the brightest in their respective fields.

As doctors, lawyers, educators, business professionals and civic leaders, these men and women have gone on to help shape the United States into the prosperous, peaceful and strong Nation we are today. Dr. David Strand through his years of service helped make this happen, and for this we, as a Nation, owe him a debt of gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, too often we fail to realize the importance of talented educators like Dr. Strand. Not only has Dr. Strand maintained the integrity and high academic standards for the university, but as a classroom professor, a professor of education, David has mentored countless young teachers, those men and women who will in kind touch thousands of other young lives. Those teachers and their students will secure the future of our Nation far into the next century, this in part due to the efforts of Dr. Strand.

As a community leader, David has made a permanent mark on his community and our State. He has worked with the public libraries, the community concert association and the Boy Scouts, just to name a few. He has been honored on many occasions by numerous organizations for his many community and professional accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise and recognize David Strand for the contributions he has made to Illinois State University and the Bloomington/Normal community. David Strand is indeed an administrator, an educator and citizen that we, as a Nation, can and should with one voice say "Thank you."

Mr. Speaker, I enter this statement into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so this and future generations of Americans can be aware of the numerous contributions of a man I am honored to call a friend, Dr. David Strand of Bloomington, Illinois, and I wish Dr. Strand a happy, healthy and enjoyable retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my good friend, Dr. David Strand, to recognize his

pending retirement as President of Illinois State University in Bloomington, Illinois.

I would be remiss not to stand here today honoring Dr. Strand, for throughout his long and distinguished tenure spanning from 1978 until 1999 with Illinois State University, Dr. Strand has helped shape the lives of thousands of young men and women.

Over the years, graduates of Illinois State University, have traveled far beyond the borders of Illinois, and have spread out around the country to become some of the best and brightest in their respective fields.

As doctors, lawyers, educators, business professionals and civic leaders, these men and women have gone on to help shape the United States into the prosperous, peaceful and strong nation we are today. Dr. David Strand, through his years of service, helped make this happen, and for this, we, as a nation, owe him a debt of gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, too often, we fail to realize the importance of talented educators like David Strand. Not only has Dr. Strand maintained the integrity and high academic standards for the University, but in the classroom, as a Professor of Education, David has mentored countless young teachers—those men and women who will, in kind, touch thousands more young lives. Those teachers, and their students, will secure the future of our nation far into the next century. This is, in part, due to the efforts of Dr. Strand.

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Mr. Speaker, I requested that this statement be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that this, and future generations Americans can be aware of the numerous contributions of a man I am honored to call "friend"—Dr. David Strand of Bloomington, Illinois.

I wish Dr. Strand a happy, healthy and enjoyable retirement.

MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to talk today about Medicare.

This is a program that we hear lots about in the news and in political campaigns, and people talk about it as though they all understood what they were talking about. I would like to talk a little bit about the program today and then talk about what all the excitement is about, what people are talking about, why they are talking.

The first thing that needs to be said about Medicare is that it is a success.

People will talk about it: It is about to fail, it is going to collapse, it is the end of the world. But if you were active politically before 1965, the situation was very much different for senior citizens in this country.

I put this graph up because I think it is important to remember what it was like before Medicare. In 1965, 54 percent of senior citizens did not have health insurance. Less than half the people in this country had health insurance when they got to be 65. Today, in 1999, 99 percent of senior citizens are covered.

Now what that has done for not only the senior citizens, but their children and their grandchildren, has been enormous because it has had an impact on them both from a financial standpoint, but also from the standpoint of the security of knowing that, as a senior citizen, you have health care benefits, and you do not have to go to your kids and have your kids take care of you, and for that reason it has been an enormous success.

There are 39 million elderly and disabled people in this country who are on the Medicare program. We spent about \$207 billion in 1997, and that is the last year we have good solid figures for; that is about 11 cents out of every Federal dollar goes for taking care of senior citizens in this country, and it amounts to about \$1 and 5 of every dollar spent on health care in this whole country.

Now let me put up the second one here. Part of the reason why we have so much discussion about Medicare is it is such a big program. If we look at the Federal budget, and we can do a short budget course here, the biggest element of our budget is Social Security which takes 22 cents out of every dollar. Defense takes 15 cents out of every dollar, and then we come to the interest on the debt which is 11 cents on every dollar, and Medicare, 11 cents out of every dollar. So, Mr. Speaker, it is the third largest or fourth largest expenditure in the Federal budget. We spend 6 percent on a program called Medicaid, which is a State program for poor people's health, and all the rest of government is 35 percent.

So Medicare is an enormous program that is used by, as I say, 39 million people, both the elderly and the disabled.

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You hear or read in the newspaper that Medicare is going to go broke, and you say to yourself, well, how could a program that is that valuable to so many people, spends that amount of money, how could it possibly go broke? What is it about this program?

I want to explain it, because it is easy when you are watching television and listening to people or reading the newspaper to not really understand what Medicare is. Medicare is actually two programs. The first program is Part A.

Now, in 1965, the problem was that they looked out and they said, "Senior